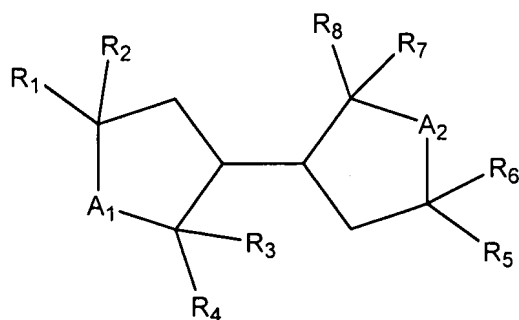


Amendments to the Claims

The "Listing of Claims" replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

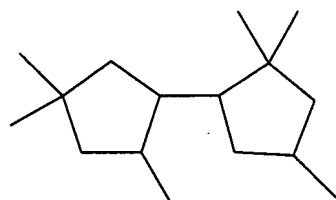
1. (Currently Amended) A cosmetic preparation comprising a compound of the formula (I):



(I)

wherein each of R₁-R₁₂ is independently hydrogen or a linear C₁₋₂₀ alkyl group each of A₁ and A₂ is a 1, 2 or 3 ring carbon atom wherein A₁ is substituted by R₉ and R₁₀ and A₂ is substituted by R₁₁ and R₁₂; and wherein at least one of R₁-R₁₂ is a linear alkyl group having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, wherein the compound is incorporated into a cosmetic preparation.

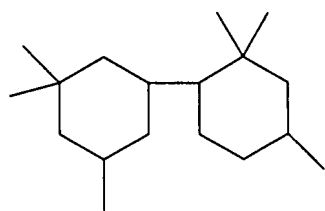
2. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic preparation of claim 1 wherein the compound of formula I is a hexamethyl dicyclopentane of the formula (III):



(III).

3. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic preparation of claim 1 wherein the compound

of formula I is a hexamethyl dicyclohexane of the formula (IV):

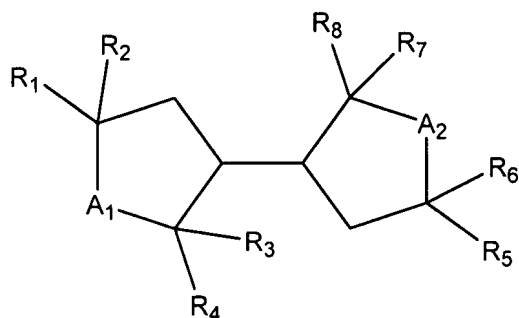


(IV).

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~composition~~ cosmetic preparation of claim 1 wherein the amount of the compound of formula (I) in the ~~composition~~ preparation is from 0.1% to 50% by weight.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~composition~~ cosmetic preparation of claim 1 wherein the amount of the compound of formula (I) in the ~~composition~~ preparation is from 0.1% to 30% by weight.

6. (Withdrawn) A compound of the formula (I):

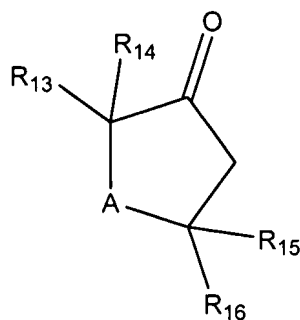


(I)

wherein each of R₁-R₁₂ is independently hydrogen or a linear C₁₋₂₀ alkyl group each of A₁ and A₂ is a 1, 2 or 3 ring carbon atom wherein A₁ is substituted by R₉ and R₁₀ and A₂ is substituted by R₁₁ and R₁₂; and wherein at least one of R₁-R₁₂ is a linear alkyl group having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms.

7. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 6 wherein each of the ring structures is a cyclopentane ring or a cyclohexane ring.

8. (Withdrawn) A process for producing a compound of claim 6 comprising the steps of: (a) reacting a cycloalkanone of the formula (II):



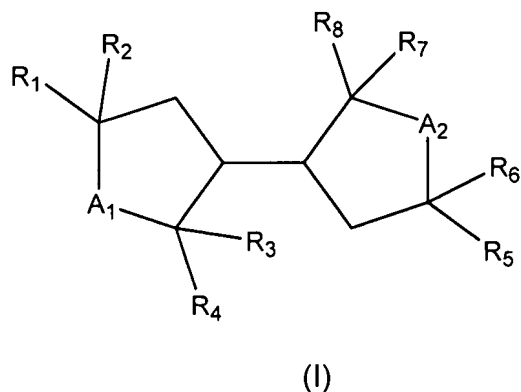
(II)

wherein each of R₁₃-R₁₈ is independently hydrogen or a linear C₁₋₂₀ alkyl group; A is a 1, 2 or 3 ring carbon atom substituted by R₁₇ and R₁₈ with a base to form an aldol condensation product; (b) forming a neutralised product by contacting the aldol condensation with acid; (3) hydrogenating the neutralised product.

9. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 8 wherein the cycloalkanone is 2,2,4-trimethylcyclopentanone or 2,2,4-trimethylcyclohexanone.

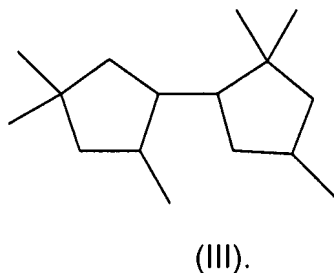
10-12. (Cancelled).

13. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of the formula (I):



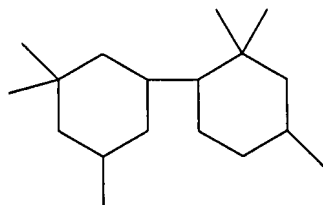
wherein each of R₁-R₁₂ is independently hydrogen or a linear C₁₋₂₀ alkyl group each of A₁ and A₂ is a 1, 2 or 3 ring carbon atom wherein A₁ is substituted by R₉ and R₁₀ and A₂ is substituted by R₁₁ and R₁₂; and wherein at least one of R₁-R₁₂ is a linear alkyl group having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, wherein the compound is incorporated into a pharmaceutical composition.

14. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 13, wherein the compound of formula I is a hexamethyl dicyclopentane of the formula (III):



15. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 13, wherein the compound of formula I is a hexamethyl dicyclohexane of the formula (IV):

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(IV).

16. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 13, wherein the amount of the compound of formula (I) in the composition is from 0.1% to 50% by weight.

17. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 13, wherein the amount of the compound of formula (I) in the composition is from 0.1% to 30% by weight.